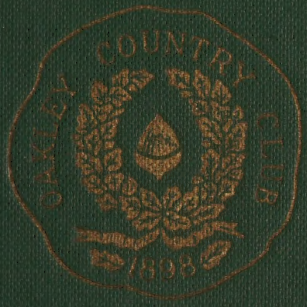
# OAKLEY COUNTRY CLUB




1898–1948

THE CLUB HOUSE, 1908

NOTES ON A HAPPY HALF-CENTURY

AT THE

# OAKLEY COUNTRY CLUB

ORIGINALLY CHARTERED AS THE

CAMBRIDGE GOLF AND COUNTRY CLUB

FEBRUARY 16, 1898

AND NAMED THE

OAKLEY COUNTRY CLUB

NOVEMBER 15, 1898

1948

WATERTOWN
MASSACHUSETTS

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# FOREWORD

Because the following pages intentionally are factual in content, and without attempt at interpretation, it seems fitting here to consider the underlying reasons for Oakley's long and successful history.

A country club has two principal purposes—to provide an opportunity for outdoor sports and to establish a congenial meeting place for friends. If such a club fails in either purpose, it must fail completely or undergo radical change. That Oakley has continued without interruption for half a century means that it has succeeded in these two objectives. That several thousand members have belonged to and supported Oakley during these fifty years of continuous activity gives ample evidence the Club has fulfilled its purpose well.

Through radical changes in customs and environment each group of Oakley members has

passed along to succeeding groups a deep affection for the Club and a spirit of democratic, neighborly fellowship. This is a heritage which we current Oakley members must hand on undiminished.

This book has been presented to the Club by Mr. Charles E. Bacon, who also arranged the details of publishing and production. Fellow members deeply appreciate his generosity.

F. L. R.

## ORIGIN AND CHANGES

The origin of the Oakley Country Club found its inspiration in a surge of new interest in outdoor sports which appeared in the United States early in the eighteen-nineties. Golf was first played in America about 1885, and George Wright—a Bostonian—is credited with importing the first clubs and balls.

St. Andrews course at Yonkers, New York, playing on only six holes, was the first in America. By 1893 eighteen-hole courses started to appear, and by 1894 the first national championship was held at Newport, Rhode Island. It was at medal play, and the winning score was 188 for thirty-six holes. By that time interest really took hold, and in 1895 the number of listed courses more than doubled—reaching one hundred by the end of the year.

Golfers of the last century did not expect a great deal either in their courses or in their equip-

ment. The game's greatest event, the Scotch open, was played on a nine-hole course at Musselburgh every third year (until late in the 1890's). It was natural, therefore, that the new enthusiasts in the United States should make their start with nine- and even six-hole layouts and very modest attempts at course architecture. It took only a few congenial souls, ten acres of open land, and a few dollars to get started.

These conditions resulted in the birth of numerous courses, many of them short-lived, and the greater number so situated that the pressure of city expansion soon overwhelmed them. The Allston course, including the present Braves Field site, was one of these.

In Watertown, by 1896, there were three courses in play. Directly south of Oakley, in the still open area surrounding the Hosmer and East Junior High Schools and bounded by Mt. Auburn, School, and Boylston streets, a group—largely from Cambridge—played golf on nine holes, had a small shed for equipment, commuted by the trolley or by their own carriages, and developed a love for golf which determined the founding of Oakley.

The Pratt estate, which included most of Oakley's present holdings, was on the market. The Stearns estate to the south was available for rental, there were enough interested friends to make a club possible, and a start was made.

Title to the Pratt estate was taken by a small group who made the purchase by use of their own funds. A lease to this same group was arranged from the Stearns estate. This group leased these holdings to the Cambridge Golf and Country Club, which was chartered in February, 1898, and had a membership for that year of two hundred and two. Golf was played on a course laid out by the joint efforts of the members, chief of whom were R. H. Dana and Willie Campbell, who had been runner-up in the first U. S. open, held at St. Andrews in 1894.

In November, 1898, the Cambridge Golf and Country Club changed its name to the Oakley Country Club. One of the moving spirits of the organization, Professor Robert W. Wilson of Harvard's astronomy department, met Donald Ross in Dornoch, Scotland, and engaged him as Oakley's professional. Ross took over in April, 1899, at which time the course was by no means

completed, and remained at Oakley until Pinehurst and the practice of golf architecture took him away.

None of Oakley's charter members are available, and it is a lesson in the fallibility of history to make an interpretation of the Club in its earlier days.

There were certainly two main functions at the outset. The golf course, the single tennis court, attracted probably a minority. The club house, with the stables and grooms, made Oakley a pleasant goal for a drive, and an attractive spot for tea, for dining, and for general social pleasure. The matter of horses and carriages occupies much space in the Club rules. Until 1917 the Club was prepared to bait or to clean horses at a fee of fifty cents, even in 1910 automobiles might not use the regular driveway, and not until the passage of six years more was it permissible to park in front of the club house.

The 1898 record shows well over half of Oakley's members as Bostonians. In 1901, out of three hundred members Boston still furnished nearly one half, and not until 1905 did Cambridge members become a majority.

Memories of 1904 and later are more available. At that time very little weekday golf was played. Twosomes were the rule and matches arranged for in advance.

The tennis activities were very important. The single court, on the site of the dormitory, was supplemented by two more located in what is now rough directly west of the present thirteenth tee. Then more courts were built near the twelfth tee, and at one time eight courts were in active use.

In 1906 the dormitory, or bungalow, was built, at first two stories high and providing eighteen rooms. In 1911 the third story was added.

In 1912 a serious fire damaged much of the second floor of the club house, and in the course of rebuilding a third story was added. The first notice of extra rooms available appears in the 1913 club book.

Squash has been played at Oakley in the brick building north of the practice green. The sport was never generally popular, but during the years of great tennis activity a small group tested the capacity of the two courts available. This building, originally the laundry, has been re-

turned to utilitarian purposes and now houses much of the grounds' equipment.

Curling has been attempted, first in a flat spot still discernible east of the dormitory, and later on flooded tennis courts. Oakley was never successful in maintaining a surface for enough days to make the sport popular.

In late years Oakley's membership has come largely from Belmont and Watertown, with Cambridge in third place. Tennis interest began to dwindle in 1930, and now, in 1948, we find Oakley a golf and neighborhood club, with a membership which varies between three hundred and forty and three hundred and sixty (the limit under the by-laws).

## SITE

Oakley Hill, called Strawberry Hill on the very earliest maps of Watertown, and for nearly two centuries thereafter, has always had its part in Watertown tradition. One of the early meetinghouses in town was built on Common Street, near our sixth green. Whether the location was at the center of population, or at the best point for observing the approach of unfriendly Indians, is a matter beyond this history.

Springs, wells, and brooks originating on Oakley's sixth and third fairways supplied water for early settlers on the southerly slopes. Two small concrete caps near the third tee cover wells, from which water was piped as recently as 1890.

The hill is usually considered to be a glacial drumlin, made up of boulders, clay, and gravel, unlike the ledges of Belmont Hill. Three parallel gashes cut by glaciation appear, one at the right of the seventeenth green, the others on the sec-

ond and the sixth. Underneath the hill are water-bearing strata carrying water from some far-off higher areas. The water level in our well at the old pump house was far above the level of Belmont Street, and the volume was greater than that which could be supplied by the rainfall on Oakley alone.

Perhaps a spring flowing from the bank at the first tee inspired the original builder to sink a well and construct the first dwelling on the hill, directly on the site of our present club house, probably in 1685. At any rate, dwellings were mentioned in a deed of 1715.

In earliest recorded transfers appear the names of Daniel Maccon, Ebenezer Hastings, and J. B. Stratton. In 1737 the property, then including about ten acres, passed to John Vila, whose descendants held title until 1808, when Harrison Gray Otis took title to dwelling, barn, and ten acres.

In 1825 Otis sold to William Pratt, and by that time the area had become forty-five acres, and stables and other buildings are mentioned. The dwelling is now described as the "mansion house."

The Pratt family apparently lived on Oakley for many years and were responsible for the greenhouses and many other structures, gardeners' cottages and the like, some of which still stand while others were moved or demolished when Oakley became a golf course.

Three large estates were built adjoining Oakley. To the west were the Paysons, whose mansion has become the center of Mt. Trinity Academy. To the east, between the eleventh fairway and School Street, stood a large yellow frame house, quite as large as Oakley's club house, which for a time was in the hands of an Adams family, and for some time after Oakley's founding was the Cambridge Riding and Driving Club. Noise from the stables and poultry sheds often disturbed intent putters on the eleventh green.

To the south was the Stearns estate, which in 1898 extended up the hill to the sixteenth green and the wall bordering the third fairway. The old Stearns house, now considerably altered, still stands on Stearns Road.

Apparently, by 1897, large mansions in Watertown had ceased to be attractive. Trolleys were running to Waverley and to Watertown. Seclu-

sion was less than complete. Pratt was willing to sell all forty-five acres. Stearns sold some and leased more. Payson sold the fifth fairway and moved the stucco barn nearer his house, where it still stands. Oakley's founders had a fair fraction of old Strawberry Hill for their new project.

Probably the Payson land, which included two greens, our present fifth and ninth, was developed a little later than other areas. At one time the present fourth and thirteenth were split into two holes each. The old tees are still visible. There is also the story that at one time the sight of golfers, who then wore bright jackets and blazers, offended churchgoers and that Sunday morning golf was confined to areas little visible from the street. At such times these extra holes became useful. Besides the prejudice noted above, the original lease from Stearns specifically prohibited Sunday golf on any land leased from him.

Early golfers in Massachusetts had a lot of trouble with their Sunday activities. The "blue laws" frowned on games on the Sabbath, and a week-end golfer always had to consider the possibility of arrest and court action. This situation

was relieved, to a major extent, by the action of an Oakley member, Mott Hallowell.

As attorney for the city of Medford, he was called into a "blue law" case and gave his legal opinion that golf was not properly defined as a "game" or a "sport," but rather as an ambulatory exercise or promenade, to which certain other activities might attach, but were not essential. This opinion apparently met popular approval and has never been questioned in court.

## CLUB HOUSE

Oakley's club house certainly provides much of the distinctive charm which has made the Club attractive to so many members over the years. The courtly spaciousness of the rooms, the sweep of the staircase, the novelty and beauty of the oval room, all testify that the builder loved the place and put his best into it.

The details of decoration and craftsmanship are unusual. The moldings and trim of paneling and doors, the turning of the stair rail, the decorations in the cast iron of the old fireplaces, all testify that extreme pains were taken to make everything as nearly perfect as could be arranged.

The structure has more than a local reputation. In 1934 when architects were, to put it mildly, generally available, a Federal project crew arrived at Oakley. Plans, details, descriptions, history, were all put together and are now

in the library of Congress, preserved with similar information on Mt. Vernon, Monticello, and others of America's proud monuments.

The story of how this unusual house was built on Oakley hill is part of the story of one of Boston's famous citizens, Harrison Gray Otis.

Otis was a man of considerable wealth, business acumen, and political prominence. Born in 1765 he entered political life early, about 1794, and maintained his interest until 1848. He was of the Federalist party and took part in the Hartford Convention of 1814. His elective offices included membership in the Massachusetts legislature, the House of Representatives in Washington, the United States Senate in 1817. He was mayor of Boston for three years, 1829–1831.

All contemporary accounts agree that he was a charming, gifted person, popular and courteous. Apparently he put much of his energy into entertaining, and his hospitality was famous.

His business activities were centered in real estate, and he built, during his lifetime, three large houses in Boston, all now standing and still impressive in size and detail.

The first, 141 Cambridge Street, is now a

museum under the care of the Society for the Preservation of New England Antiques.

The second at 85 Mt. Vernon Street is still a private residence.

The third, where he lived from 1807 till his death, is at 45 Beacon Street and now a headquarters for the Boy Scouts.

It was such a builder, who in 1808 bought the old Vila house with ten acres.

He then persuaded his close friend, Charles Bulfinch, who had been architect of two of his town houses, to make the additions which created what we now know as Oakley's club house. Bulfinch, who is probably best known for his work on the State House and other buildings on Beacon Hill, did not keep actual records of the private dwellings he designed, but there is every evidence that the remodeling of the Oakley house is of his workmanship.

To the ten acres originally purchased, Otis added thirty-four more. The area ran from the wall at the eleventh to the edge of the fifth, and from Belmont Street to a line passing through the back of the sixteenth. In this area driveways were laid out, rare trees were planted. All was

The Club House, 1948

done that taste, ample means, and the best of artistic advice could accomplish. We find a record that John Rutledge, son of the Chief Justice, sent rare plants, trees, and shrubs from the gardens of Charleston, which were even then world famous. It seems likely that our copper beech, on the sixteenth, may have come from that source. It is a European tree and was not widely known in the United States at that time.

We can imagine parties arriving by coach from Boston, dining, dancing, and returning to the Boston mansion by moonlight. Oakley did not have many bedrooms, probably only the most distinguished visitors stayed there. When we remember that, as one of Boston's first citizens, Otis had the privilege of entertaining many of the prominent visitors to Boston, it is easy to believe that Oakley was not the least pleasant memory of America for many a distinguished foreign visitor who enjoyed the lawns, trees, drives, oval room, and above all the view over Boston, then untarnished by industrial smoke.

Frank Whitcher, who loved and was loved of Oakley, became much interested in the Otis story and, after study of the records, presented

the Club with the bronze tablet set into the front wall, which was dedicated with ceremony in 1933.

The story so impressed Mr. Whitcher with the character of Otis that he wrote the following notes which, in his own handwriting, are treasured in Oakley's files:

"As Harrison Gray Otis owned Oakley from 1808 to 1825, it is my understanding that while he had the original house remodeled into a beautiful country home, he also gave much attention to the development of the grounds. The trees, shrubbery, and planting which line the driveway indicate that they must have been set out as long ago as when he occupied the place.

"The general landscape of the grounds shows the result of thoughtful planning and the work of one who knew how to beautify an estate to please the eye of the public. The general layout of the lawn, grape hothouse, and servants quarters, placing them where they would be partially hidden by the trees and would not obstruct the view, show that it was done by a person of fine taste and who well understood the work of a landscape architect. The winding driveway

lined with trees and so planned that it can be seen its entire length from entrance to the house is typical of the fine old English estates with which Otis must have been familiar. As he was a great entertainer, one can well imagine the house parties he gave and the life and beauty of the coaches with their four horses and a bugler making the welkin ring as a gay party approached the house."

## OFFICERS

That Oakley is celebrating its fiftieth anniversary is due, in very great measure, to the wisdom and industry of the many officers and committee members who have served the Club with unflagging loyalty and affection throughout the half-century.

Written into the records of the directors are many expressions of gratitude and appreciation for these services. In many cases the language of these expressions is so eloquent and the recital of the accomplishments so impressive, that it becomes plain that the members in those years thoroughly realized how much the Club owed to the individuals to whom the memorials were addressed.

A complete list of all who have served well and honorably would hold several hundred names. Only the names of the principal officers are included in the following lists:

## OFFICERS

### Presidents

| | |
|---|---|
| Charles Eustis Hubbard | 1898–1903 |
| Richard H. Dana | 1904–1906; also 1911 |
| Joseph B. Russell | 1907–1910 |
| John H. Storer | 1912 |
| William V. Kellen | 1913 |
| Warren M. Whiting | 1914–1916 |
| Philip Cabot | 1917–1918 |
| Arthur H. Brooks | 1919–1922 |
| Frank D. Fairbanks | 1923–1925 |
| Philip G. Carleton | 1926–1927; also 1932 |
| Willard B. Luther | 1928 |
| Charles Stetson | 1929–1931 |
| Walter F. Earle | 1933 |
| Francis R. Boyd | 1934–1935 |
| Arthur F. Bickford | 1936–1937 |
| Charles W. Chamberlain | 1938–1939 |
| Francis H. Kendall | 1940–1942 |
| Robert B. Kayser | 1943–1945 |
| C. Lawrence Muench | 1946 |
| Frederic L. Reynolds | 1947– |

### Treasurers

| | |
|---|---|
| William M. Richardson | 1898–1919 |
| Robert W. Knowles | 1920 |
| C. Oliver Wellington | 1921–1927 |
| Arthur L. Risley | 1928–1933 |
| William B. Durant | 1934– |

## OFFICERS

### Secretaries

| | |
|---|---|
| Philip Dexter | 1898 |
| Arthur H. Brooks | 1899–1904 |
| Thomas B. Gannett, Jr. | 1905 |
| George W. Cram | 1906–1933 |
| Robert M. Darling | 1934 |
| Louis M. Hannum | 1935– |

## GOLF COURSE

Any golf course begun in 1897 had to be designed on the theory that much of the play would use the gutty ball. This ball could not be driven far, nor was it possible to apply back-spin. Greens were usually built so that the ball could roll up to the putting surface, and greens were generally flat, or followed the natural contour of the ground, rather than banked up. Our second, sixth, eleventh, and thirteenth are of this type, and unchanged since first built.

From 1898 through 1906 Oakley had three holes on land not now occupied by the Club. These were all to the south of the present seventeenth, and play went nearly down to Mt. Auburn Street. The first hole played approximately as at present, but there was a deep, shrub-filled pit directly in front of the tee. A topped drive might easily mean double figures on the hole.

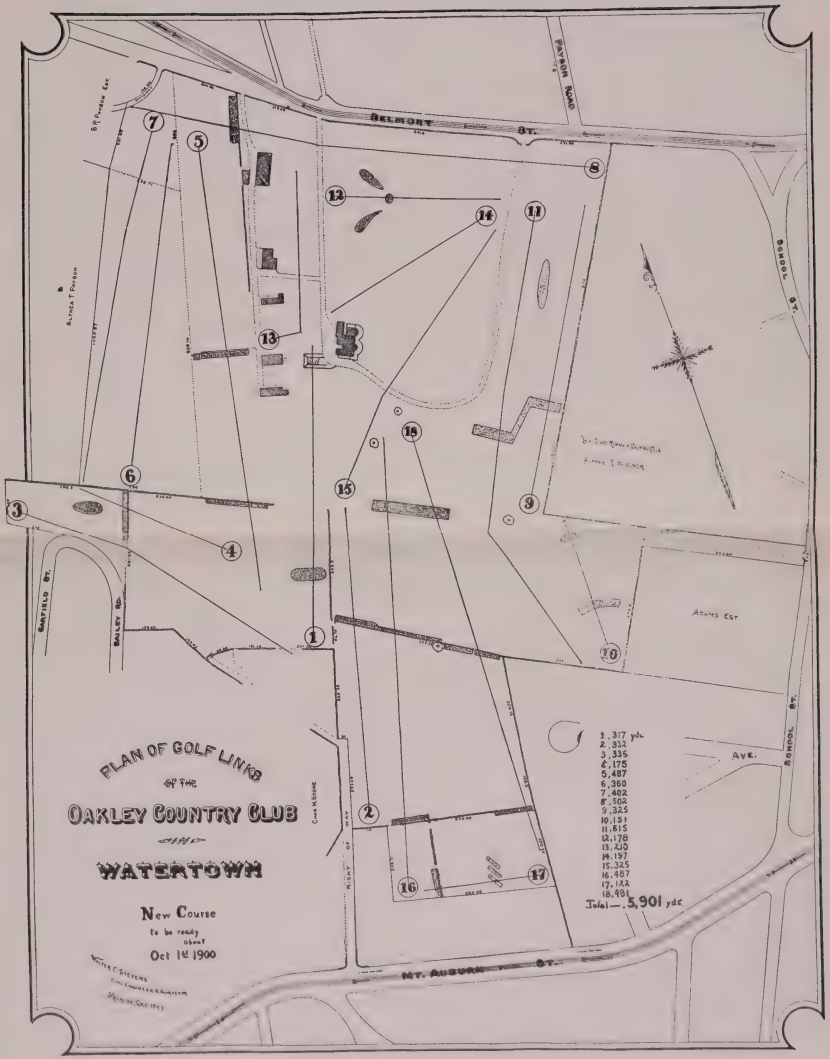
The second hole played from the present prac-

tice tee, due south to a green well to the right of the present seventeenth and at the bottom of the hill, about the junction of Stoneleigh and Arden roads. Players then walked through a grove of nut trees, many of which still stand on the house lots of Arden Road, and arrived at the present second tee.

The sixth was a complete punch bowl, played from our present fifth tee, and the green was in the hollow directly in front of our present sixth tee. The level of the green was about six feet below the present accumulation of deadwood, and the approach was absolutely blind. Behind the green, set into the stone wall, was a direction flag mounted on a pole at least thirty feet high, and at the next tee was a semaphore, which players set to warning, before going down into the abyss. Of course it had to be set to clear, before the next match could approach with safety, and on the rare occasions when this formality was omitted, hard feelings might arise.

The next green was our present ninth. There were, therefore, two fairways in the space of our present fifth.

The hole following the present fourteenth was


PLAN OF GOLF LINKS
OF THE
OAKLEY COUNTRY CLUB
IN
WATERTOWN
New Course
to be ready
about
Oct 1st 1900
BELMONT ST.
PAYSON ROAD
SCHOOL ST.
MT. AUBURN ST.
BAILEY RD.
BANFIELD ST.
ADAMS EST
AVE.
1 317 yds
2 332
3 335
4 175
5 487
6 360
7 402
8 504
9 325
10 151
11 815
12 178
13 210
14 197
15 325
16 187
17 182
18 491
Total — 5,901 yds

famous. From a tee still visible in the rough on the edge of the tenth fairway, about halfway between the exit driveway and the site of the old barn, play went directly up the hill to the present practice green. A hooked drive would reach the driveway, where the ball might roll back endlessly, or be found at rest near an excited horse tied up in the driveway. A slice would come to rest behind the squash courts. Only a long hitter would attempt to drive directly over the squash court to the green, and there was a large tree which made that shot still more hazardous. This hole was abandoned when the present seventh was built about 1915.

The sixteenth was then Oakley's fourth longest hole. Starting at the present seventeenth tee, play went south, down through the valley to the right of the present seventeenth to a flat green, well beyond the present Stoneleigh Road and near Stearns Road. After a short hole played due east, play went to the present eighteenth green after a terrifying drive up a steep hill over the wall behind the present eighteenth tee. It took a good shot to carry that wall, and any error could cost multiple strokes.

About 1907 the three holes to the south were abandoned. The present sixth, eighth, and seventeenth greens were built. As the punch bowl, then the fifth, was still in play, the sixth tee was to the right of the hollow and can still be seen with a stone wall foundation.

After the sixth, players moved to a tee next to Common Street at the left of the Club property and played to the present eighth green, play going directly over the sixth green, where the following match had to stand aside. That was a hard pitch shot. The green was slightly banked, but not heavily so, and only a high pitch had any chance of arriving and sticking.

The next move was the building of the present seventh, abandoning play to the practice green and moving the fifth out of the hollow to its present location. By 1915 the course played as at present.

The original greens of the first, fifth, tenth, fifteenth, and seventeenth have all been completely regraded and contoured, the last job being on the first green about 1930, when the steam shovel moved over fifteen hundred yards of earth to bring the green up to grade.

The eighth green was partially rebuilt about 1921 to accommodate play coming from the present tee, rather than the pitch shot from the south for which it was originally designed.

## GOLFERS

Oakley fairways have seen much fine golf and many notable golfers. Beginning with Harry Vardon, who played here in 1901, a succession of famous visiting players have given exhibitions or enjoyed friendly matches. Bobby Jones was here occasionally when attending Harvard. Ray and Duncan played an exhibition match in the nineteen-twenties.

Probably thirty-five years were required to set the all-time, all-player ringer score of 34—seventeen eagles and one double eagle—a deuce on the thirteenth. Over forty years passed before Jug McSpaden set the course record of 63, which has since been tied by Clayton Clancy, Jr.

If all the trophies won by Oakley players in major tournaments came to the Club, there would be a storage problem. Here is a partial list of major competitions won:

Edith Baker, five times Massachusetts cham-

pion and twice on the winning pair of the Massachusetts Mixed Foursome Championship.

Rosamund Vahey, three times Massachusetts Champion and once, with Clayton Clancy, Jr., winner in the Massachusetts Mixed Foursomes.

Josephine Halnan and Ed Peterson won the Massachusetts Mixed Foursome also.

In earlier years, with Mrs. F. W. Daley, Harriott Curtis, Margaret Curtis, Pauline MacKay, Mrs. H. Arnold Jackson, Fanny Osgood, Mary B. Adams (later Mrs. E. C. Wheeler, Jr.), all of whose names appear on the Ladies Cup, we have the amazing total of seven National Championships, nine Medalists in National Championship, and thirteen Massachusetts State Championships.

This gives a total of twenty-one Massachusetts titles to lady golfers connected with Oakley.

This is too much of a record for the men to match; but our Oakley Champions, whose list appears later, never won that title easily, nor could they be regarded lightly in any tournament in which they took part.

J. G. Thorp, six times Oakley Champion between 1902 and 1915, was finalist in the National

in 1896, playing at Shinnercock Hills; and in 1909, when the Massachusetts Amateur was played at Oakley, he was runner-up to Percival Gilbert.

F. C. Davidson, won the Collegiate title for Harvard in 1912, as James F. Curtis, an original Oakley golfer, had done in 1898.

More recently Ed Peterson, a five-time Oakley champion, won the New England Intercollegiate when it was first played.

Many Oakley caddies have gone on to play very fine golf.

Fred Wright, Jr., who started here, after winning several junior titles was seven times Massachusetts Champion besides playing extraordinary competitive golf on both sides of the Atlantic. He is Oakley's 1948 Champion.

The Martins, Leo and Edward, were for ten years often medalists and always well up at the top in Massachusetts tournaments. Leo won the State championship in 1941, and Edward in 1948.

Judge Joe Monahan has always been a respected tournament antagonist and with his son is well ahead in father-and-son tournament victories.

Jack Flynn is also carrying on the tradition of Grade-A golf learned on Oakley fairways.

The list of honored names is too long for this sketch. The omissions are probably as worthy as the inclusions.

At the present time Oakley's main events are the New England Intercollegiate and the Cowan Memorial, when New England's finest golfers meet on Oakley's fairways. These events are described under "Trophies."

### Oakley Champions

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1901 | A. L. Ripley | 1915 | J. G. Thorp |
| 1902 | J. G. Thorp | 1916 | E. W. Daley |
| 1903 | W. C. Chick | 1917 | E. W. Daley |
| 1904 | W. C. Chick | 1918–19 | Not played |
| 1905 | J. G. Thorp | 1920 | W. G. Ball |
| 1906 | J. G. Thorp | 1921 | C. T. Skehens |
| 1907 | W. C. Chick | 1922 | C. T. Skehens |
| 1908 | J. G. Thorp | 1923 | C. T. Skehens |
| 1909 | W. C. Chick | 1924 | J. M. Richards |
| 1910 | F. C. Davidson | 1925 | W. W. Munsell |
| 1911 | F. C. Davidson | 1926 | R. G. Carpenter |
| 1912 | J. G. Thorp | 1927 | W. W. Munsell |
| 1913 | N. W. Dean | 1928 | R. G. Carpenter |
| 1914 | R. C. Cushman, Jr. | 1929 | W. W. Munsell |

OAKLEY CHAMPIONS (*Continued*)

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1930 | E. H. Peterson | 1940 | C. M. Cain |
| 1931 | W. W. Munsell | 1941 | C. M. Cain |
| 1932 | E. H. Peterson | 1942 | J. D. Woodfin, Jr. |
| 1933 | R. G. Carpenter | 1943 | J. J. Grinold |
| 1934 | E. H. Peterson | 1944 | J. D. Woodfin, Jr. |
| 1935 | E. H. Peterson | 1945 | J. D. Woodfin, Jr. |
| 1936 | E. H. Peterson | 1946 | C. M. Cain |
| 1937 | E. H. Peterson | 1947 | Clayton Clancy, Jr. |
| 1938 | E. H. Peterson | 1948 | F. J. Wright, Jr. |
| 1939 | C. M. Cain | | |

One cannot talk about Oakley golf without mentioning our Forced Mixems.

These events, played several times each season on Sunday afternoons, have become one of Oakley's major attractions, bringing out lady golfers who would not otherwise enter competitions, widening acquaintanceship among the members, and providing a Sunday afternoon's and evening's enjoyment. The response by the members, running up to one hundred players, shows how much these occasions mean to Oakley golfers. We never have a hundred entries in other events.

Men and women players sign up as competitors; then partners are drawn by lot and play a medal round, using selected drives. Handicaps

are subtracted from the final score, figured on three fourths of the combined handicaps of the two players. Prizes are awarded to first, second, third, and fourth net and first gross, as well as for special shots during the round. After play, buffet suppers are served, and there is an evening play of keno.

The incidents and accidents of play in these events, whether past or anticipated, furnish much luncheon and dinner table conversation at the Club and elsewhere, well before the season starts and long after it has ended.

The Forced Mixems could have been scheduled as outlined, and still failed of being a great success. That they have proved so attractive is due to the devotion and ingenuity of the special committees who have had the affairs in charge.

Roger and Marguerite Wattles had the original idea. Do Kayser and Bob Morris helped. Then Les and Lucille L'Hollier took over, and now we have Paul and Frances Wilson in charge. Never has there been a lack of an interested and energetic pair to carry on.

The selection and display of prizes have always contributed greatly to the Mixem's success

and helped to increase the entry lists. The pairing of the teams, scheduling of starting times, and general arrangements have been given the greatest of care. For instance, a captain is appointed for each foursome, whose chief duty it is to see to it that all four are at the tee on time. The whole conduct of the Mixems has reflected the greatest credit on the management, who have operated entirely on their own, raising any necessary funds, and always ending the season without any tax on the Club treasury.

It might be added that the entire proceeds of the keno event is distributed to the players—a rather unusual procedure.

## PROFESSIONALS

It is not generally realized that, in the early days of golf and to some extent until the advent of steel shafts, a golf professional was a craftsman in club-making. Only through a long apprenticeship could the art be mastered—and there were not many teachers. This situation explains why practically all professionals came from the United Kingdom until about 1920. Tailor-made clubs, to fit the physique and style of a player, were sources of pride to the owner and profit to the maker. Oakley's shop has always been famous for the craftsmanship of its club-makers, and many distinguished professionals used to visit to discuss their art.

All Oakley's professionals, excepting Mike Brady, have been Scotsmen.

After Willie Campbell helped in building the course, there was a short time when W. T. Andersen, of whom there are only scanty memo-

ries, acted as professional until Donald Ross came and, from 1899 until 1910, made himself a part of Oakley. In his shop worked several assistants who have become well known. Herbert Lagerblade, Skip Wogan, and our own Fred Low worked with Donald. His brother Alex spent a year or so at Oakley, helping when business was especially brisk. Donald Ross was Massachusetts Open Champion in 1905 and 1911.

Tom Hucknall served in 1911 and 1912 and was followed by Chris Callaway from 1913 through 1916.

Mike Brady was Oakley's professional from 1916 to 1920 and was probably the most famous competitive golfer who ever held the post. Brady's reputation was such that the Encyclopædia Britannica chose him for some of the pictures illustrating the article on golf. He tied twice for U. S. Open Championship and lost the play-off both times. He was three times Massachusetts Open Champion.

John Cowan came in 1921 and stayed till his death, which came suddenly while giving an indoor lesson in 1936. He won the New England

P.G.A. in 1923 and was runner-up in 1922. John was at Oakley longer than any other professional and in his fifteen years earned a permanent place in the affection of the membership.

Fred Low, who has been with us since 1937, learned club-making from Simpson in Carnoustie, Scotland. He came to America in 1903 and served with Donald Ross in 1908. He held the post of professional at Brae Burn from 1925 till 1936.

## TROPHIES

### The Oakley Cup

Presented in 1901 by J. G. Thorp

On this cup are recorded the names of Oakley's champion golfers. Originally play was among eight contestants, who qualified by thirty-six holes medal play and then played a round robin tournament to determine the champion, who then received a medal.

At the present time, members qualify for the club championship at eighteen holes, medal play. The sixteen players with lowest scores go into match play for the championship. The winner's name is inscribed on the cup and also on the plaque in the club house. Appropriate merchandise prizes are awarded the winner and runner-up.

## The Earle Shield

Presented in 1923 by Walter F. Earle and Charles B. Earle

On this shield are recorded the names of winners of the Seniors (members over fifty years old) who play under regulations made by the Golf Committee.

At the present time playing conditions are as follows:

Members fifty years old and over are eligible to compete for the Earle Shield. Sixteen players qualify on medal play, full handicap. Match play proceeds at three-quarters difference in handicap with the eventual winner's name being placed on the shield. Suitable prizes are awarded the winner and runner-up.

## The Boys' Cup

Presented in 1932 by Charles E. Bacon

This trophy is intended to record the golfing prowess of members who have reached the age of seventy.

The Boys' Cup was the means of establishing

a friendship among three of our most distinguished members—Frank Whitcher, Nat Perkins, and George Brigham. Its purpose is to bring together veteran members of the Club, so that later they shall have no difficulty in finding partners.

The winner's name is engraved upon the cup. He also receives a small replica of the cup.

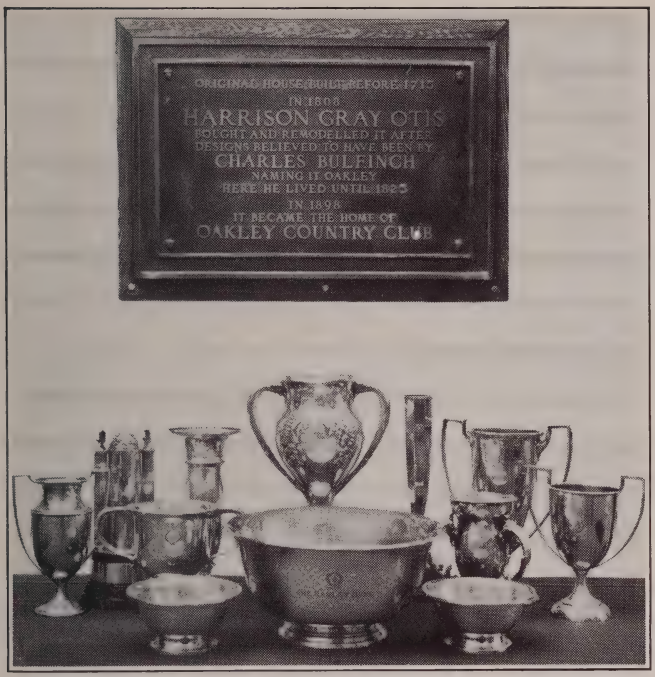
## The Whitcher Trophy

Presented in 1934 by Frank W. Whitcher

It was originally intended that the winner in three successive years should own the cup and that the winner each year hold the cup until the start of play the following year.

At the present time playing conditions are as follows: Club members are given about ten days in which to qualify for this individual match play tournament. Thirty-two players qualify on net scores and then go into match play at three-quarters difference in handicaps.

The winner's name is inscribed on the trophy board and on the cup. The winner and the runner-up receive suitable merchandise awards.




The Oakley Trophies

## Donald Phipps Sands Golf Trophy

Presented in 1937 by John Alles

This trophy was given in memory of Don Sands and in commemoration of his ideals, sportsmanship, and service to the Oakley Country Club.

This event is a two-ball-team affair. Sixteen teams qualify on best ball of the two, three-quarters handicap individually as it comes on the card. Match play proceeds at three-quarters handicap, and the Salena system then determines the trophy winners.

Suitable merchandise prizes are awarded the winners, whose names will be placed on the trophy-winners board in the club house and engraved on the cup.

## The Oakley Bowl

Inspired by Horace Stevens and first used in 1936

This trophy was intended to serve in dispensing hospitality and to record, each year, the names of two members who deserved honor from the Club.

The Golf Committee each year nominates two such members, who become for one day the captains of two opposing teams. Regardless of the outcome of the ensuing contest, the names of the captains of both teams are duly inscribed on the bowl.

Competition takes place at the spring or fall get-together. As players leave the first tee, the foursome is divided so that two members play for one team (usually the Acorns) against the other two playing for a second team (usually called the Oaks). They play against each other individually at three-quarters difference in handicap. Three points are awarded in each match, one for each nine holes and one for the total eighteen. After completion of the matches each team's total points are tabulated, and the names of the players on the winning team and of those on the losing team, as well as the names of the two captains, and the total points are inscribed on the bowl.

It has been customary for the members of the losing team to defray the expenses incurred in filling the bowl with refreshments for the enjoyment of all.

## The Ladies Cup

Presented in 1904 by Alfred L. Ripley,
Oakley's first Champion

There is no record as to the conditions attached to this cup, but it seems to record the names of Oakley's best lady golfers when it was in play. The list of winners follows. We assume that each winner held the title of Champion of Oakley in addition to her other titles.

| | |
|---|---|
| 1904 | Margaret Curtis |
| 1905 | Pauline MacKay |
| 1906 | Pauline MacKay |
| 1907 | Mary B. Adams |
| 1908 | Fanny C. Osgood |
| 1909 | Mrs. F. W. Batchelder |
| 1910 | Mrs. E. C. Wheeler |
| 1911 | Fanny Osgood |
| 1912 | Mrs. E. C. Wheeler, Jr. |
| 1913 | Mrs. E. C. Wheeler, Jr. |
| 1914 | Mrs. H. A. Jackson |
| 1915 | Mrs. E. W. Daley |
| 1916 | Mrs. E. W. Daley |

The Women's Golf Committee are now considering plans to revive the use of this trophy to record the names of our best lady golfers.

## The Intercollegiate Oakley Club Trophy

Presented in 1933 by Frank W. Whitcher

This roving Oakley trophy bears the following inscription:

OAKLEY TROPHY

[THE CLUB SEAL]

NEW ENGLAND INTERCOLLEGIATE GOLF CHAMPIONSHIP

Competition is regulated by the New England Intercollegiate Golf Association, which came into being largely on account of the founding of this competition and the presentation of this trophy by Mr. Whitcher.

The cup remains in the custody of the college to which the champion is accredited for one year, and is now at the University of Maine, to be returned in time for exhibition at the next tournament. Play has generally taken place at Oakley, but this is not demanded by the conditions of the gift.

Until recent years, this event was strictly a medal play tournament with 36-hole totals deciding the winner. Two years ago it was decided to determine the individual champion by match play. At present, an 18-hole qualifying round sets up sixteen participants for match play, and the college team championship is decided by taking the four lowest scores of the team players competing.

### Winners of the New England Intercollegiate Title

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1934 | E. H. Peterson | Harvard |
| 1935 | Lynford Lardner, Jr. | Harvard |
| 1936 | Willie Turnesa | Holy Cross |
| 1937 | Willie Turnesa | Holy Cross |
| 1938 | Willie Turnesa | Holy Cross |
| 1939 | Robert Graves | Harvard |
| 1940 | Robert E. Bingham | Amherst |
| 1941 | Larry Murphy | Holy Cross |
| | (No play 1942–1945) | |
| 1946 | Charles W. Mulcahey | Harvard |
| 1947 | Richard Kinchla | Boston College |
| 1948 | Eugene McNab | University of Maine |

## The John Cowan Memorial Shield

Presented in 1936 by a group of John Cowan's friends, including many fellow professionals

Competition takes place on a Sunday afternoon in the autumn. Visiting professionals are paired by lot with Oakley members and play an 18-hole medal round, two ball, best ball, the professional playing at scratch and the member receiving handicap strokes as they appear on the card.

Cash prizes are awarded to the professionals for first and second team scores, also for individual scores.

The names of the winning professional and Oakley member are inscribed on the shield.

## Tennis Trophies

Little remains of Oakley's tennis trophies. In general the cups became the property of three-time winners, and although the records show that more than once a new set for singles and doubles came into competition, we now have only one

singles cup (which carries no entry) and two doubles bowls (last won in 1927).

Two plaques testify that Oakley won team championships in the Mystic Valley Tennis Association in 1906 and 1910.

## AFTERWORD

You have read many interesting facts about Oakley's fifty years of active and successful existence. This would not be complete without reference to another and very important side of our Club, and that is the human side. This side can perhaps best be summed up by the word "memories."

We have had during our fifty years of existence a large number of members, many of whom still live only in our memories, and very often chiefly in our memories of them on Oakley's hill.

It is perhaps an understatement to say that Oakley's most valuable gifts to its members are the memories incident to membership—memories of acquaintances made which have in many instances ripened into warm friendships, memories of contests won and lost, memories of peaceful moments or perhaps hours spent in just sitting

and contemplating the panorama on all sides which the Oakley location permits. There are also memories of the comforts given by the devoted service of many long-time employees.

Whatever happens to Oakley itself in the years to come, these memories will forever survive and be cherished in the hearts of all past, present, and future members.

C. S.